



Connecticut Department of Public Health

Testimony Presented Before the Public Health Committee

March 16, 2015

**Commissioner Jewel Mullen, MD, MPH, MPA
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Senate Bill 981 An Act Concerning Medical Assistants

The Department opposes Senate Bill 981. The bill would require the Department of Public Health to establish a three-year pilot program allowing medical assistants to administer medications.

Conducting a three-year pilot study such as the one proposed in this bill is a complex research effort that requires strict oversight. Steps to conduct the pilot study include recruiting and identifying sites and medical assistants to participate, identifying medication administration trainings for medical assistants participating in the pilot, developing protocols for medication administration by medical assistants, developing protocols for delegating medication administration to medical assistants, implementing these protocols with participating staff and facilities, monitoring and collecting data on medication administration activities conducted by medical assistants participating in the pilot, identifying any adverse events, and maintaining and analyzing the data from the participating sites in order to thoroughly assess the results of the pilot study.

The Department does not have the capacity to conduct a three-year pilot study of this nature within current resources, and therefore opposes this bill due to the significant fiscal impact of such a pilot study.

A 2013 scope of practice report on medical assistants and medication administration concluded that there were no major public safety risks to allowing medical assistants to administer medications. The report also concluded that statutory language associated with allowing this expanded role for medical assistants must define and clarify a number of issues identified by the scope of practice review committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to share information related to this bill.